(b) the reasons for involvement of other Ministries for change of names of Railway Stations, when the names of Railway Stations are initially decided by his own Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for change in the name of railway stations are examined by Ministry of Home Affairs as consultations are required with other Departments/ Ministries namely Department of Science & Technology, Department of Posts, Ministry of Railways and Survey of India as per guidelines issued by them, also in order to ensure that there is no village or town with the same name in the State/neighbourhood, historical connections are not lost etc.

Thado Language Programmes on AIR

1910. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum demanding broadcasting of THADO language programmes from AIR Station, Diphu, Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A representation dated 11.9.1996 from a local Thadou Organization of Diphu Town was received through Hon'ble M.P., Dr. Jayanta Rongpi requesting that time may be allocated on AIR, Diphu for programmes in different dialects including Thadou.

(c) The principal dialect of broadcast of AIR, Diphu is Karbi. It also broadcasts programmes in Bodo, Dimasa and Assamese. The station under its Access Programming System proposes to give opportunities to distinct groups in the community including the sub-tribes to present programmes in their dialects.

Optical Fibre at Sahibganj

1911. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work for providing optical fibre was to be completed at Sahibganj in Bihar during 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the said work has started from Bhagalpur;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said facility is likely to be made available in Sahibganj?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of reply to (a) above question does not arise.

(d) By September, 1998.

[Translation]

Extension of Train

1912. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether passengers are demanding to extend the Memodren train upto Umargam and Sanjan railway station which runs from Bombay to Danu railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government have contemplated on said demand so far;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard and the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided to the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Extension of Mumbai/Bandra-Jahanu Road DMU Trains/Shuttles upto Umbargam Road and Sanjan has been examined but not found operationally feasible. However, no EMU/ MEMU trains are running between Mumbai/Bandra and Dahanu Road.

Flight between Silchar-Delhi and Calcutta-Guwahati

1913. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of flights between Silchar-Delhi and Calcutta-Guwahati;

(b) whether at present any person willing to go to Silchar from Guwahati has to go via Calcutta;

(c) whether any proposal have been received to link up Silchar-Aizwal and Agartala by air; and

(d) if so, the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Indian Airlines does not operate direct services between Delhi-Silchar. However, Silchar is airlinked with Delhi via Guwahati and Calcutta. There are six weekly flights between Calcutta and Silchar by Indian Airlines and three weekly flights between Silchar and Guwahati by NEPC. Indian Airlines operates 10 times a week flight on Calcutta-Guwahati-Calcutta sector and twice weekly flights on Calcutta-Imphal-Guwahati-Calcutta sector.

(b) NEPC Airlines is operating three flights weekly between Silchar and Guwahati and four flights weekly via Imphal between above two destinations.